A FLEETWAY ANNUAL

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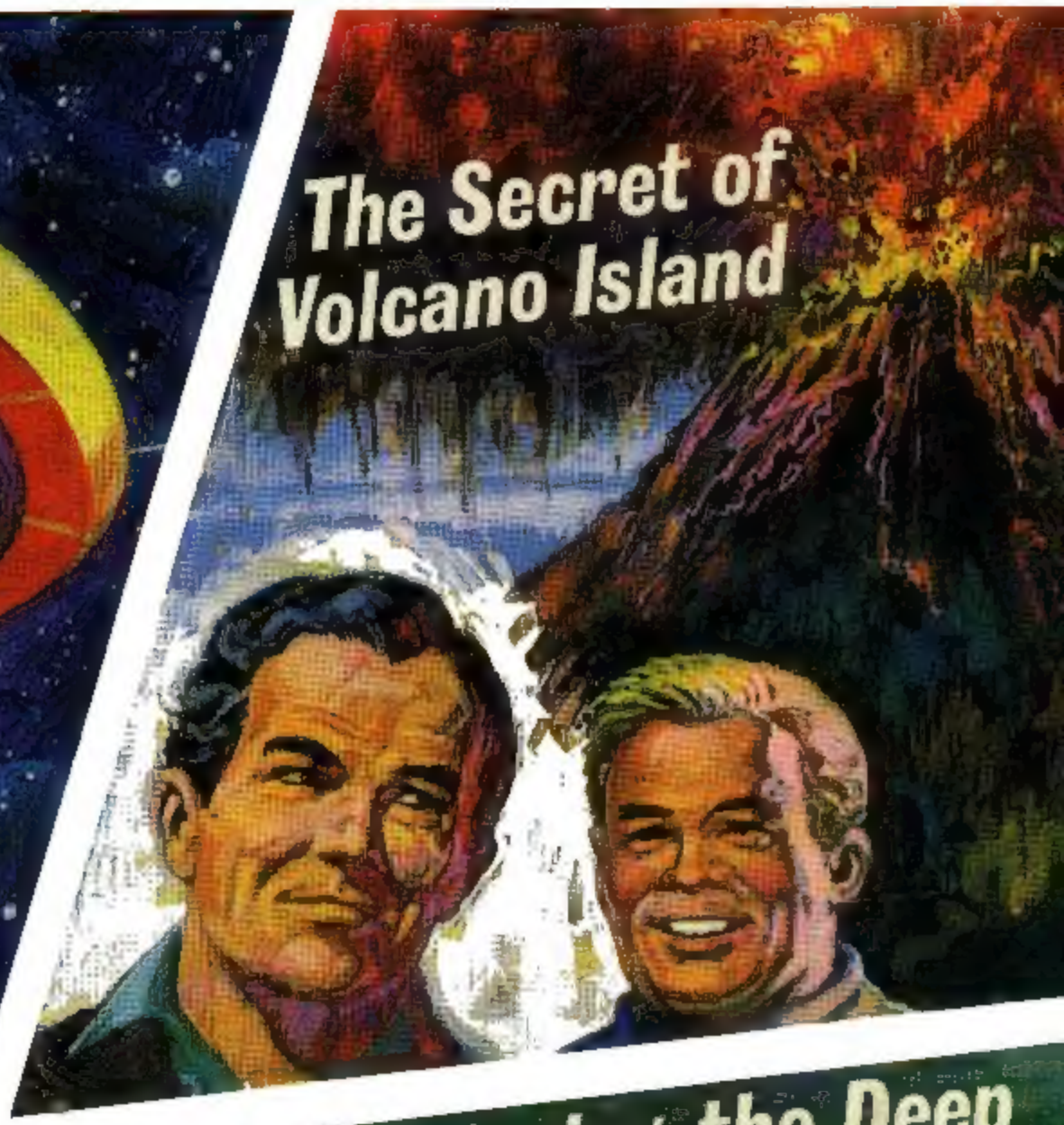

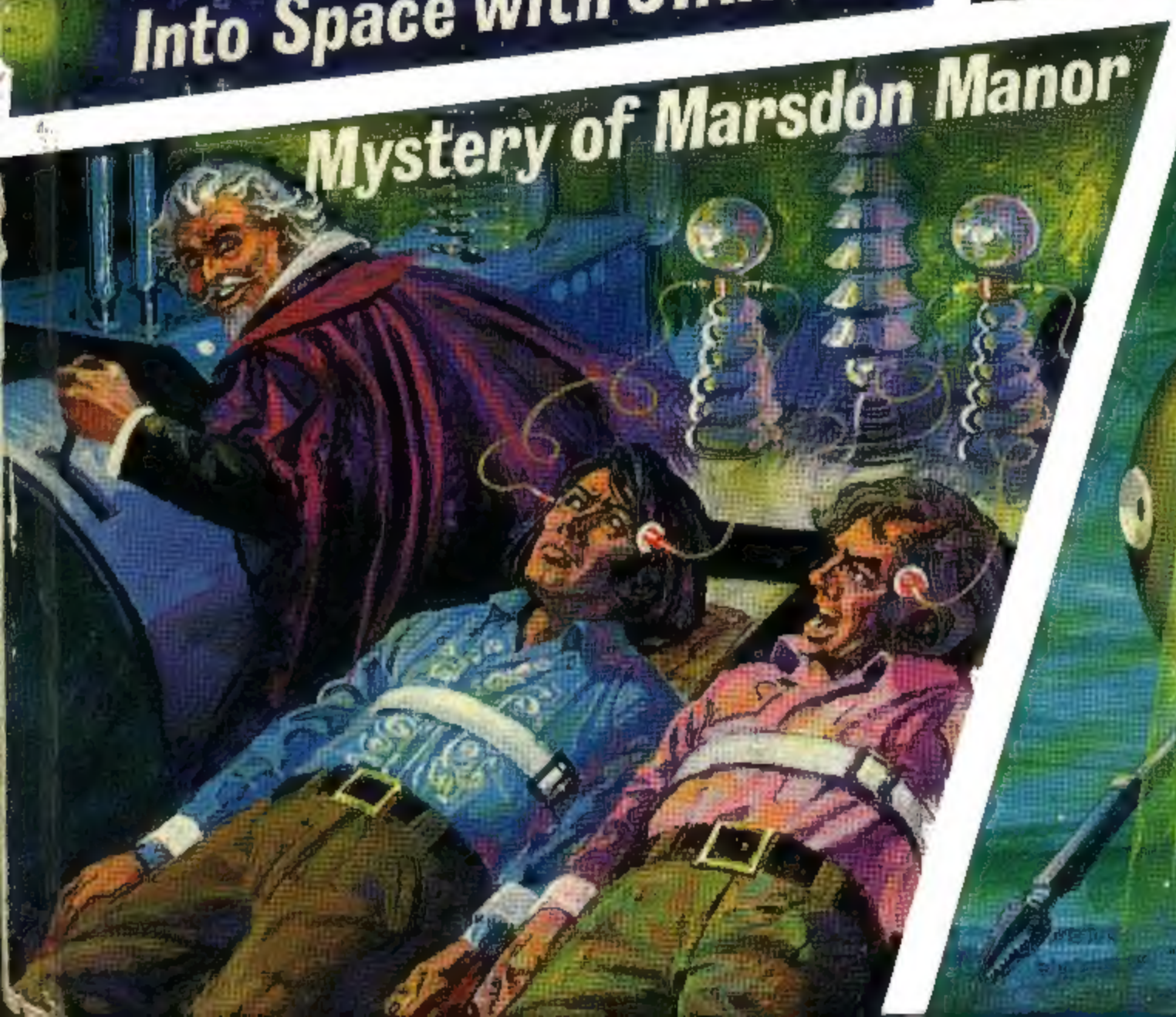

STAR TREK

PLANET OF THE DEAD

Under the command of Captain James T. Kirk the Starship 'Enterprise' held a steady course through the Zeta Stantor system, en route for the planet Selkye. On board the great ship was a party of scientists and technicians whose mission was to set up a base on Selkye and investigate its possibilities for colonisation by mankind.

A FEW MINUTES LATER THE SHUTTLE CRAFT DROPPED AWAY FROM THE MOTHER-SHIP. ON BOARD WERE PROFESSOR SPELLMAN'S PARTY AND THEIR EQUIPMENT...
IT HAS ALL THE APPEARANCES OF A DEAD CITY! CAN WE MAKE OUR LANDING THERE, PILOT?
WILL DO, PROFESSOR!
THE PILOT BROUGHT THE SHIP DOWN IN A FEATHER-LIGHT LANDING...
JIM KIRK, MR. SPOCK AND DOCTOR McCOY WERE THE FIRST TO ALIGHT. CLOSE BEHIND CAME PROFESSOR SPELLMAN AND HIS ASSISTANT, PROFESSOR JEAN RAVEL...
I'LL GET MY ENGINEERS TO SET UP OUR BUILDING RIGHT HERE!
AMAZING! THIS COULD ALMOST BE A RELIC OF A LOST CIVILISATION ON EARTH! WHOEVER BUILT THIS CITY MUST SURELY HAVE BEEN VERY SIMILAR TO MANKIND!
AS THE ENGINEERS BEGAN TO ERECT THEIR TEMPORARY BASE, JIM KIRK AND THE OTHERS WENT ON A TOUR OF INSPECTION...
THIS WHOLE PLANET IS SO STILL. YOU CAN ALMOST HEAR THE SILENCE!
THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY FORM OF LIFE ANYWHERE!
YET THERE WAS ONCE – THESE RUINS PROVE THAT. SOMETHING KILLED OFF THE LIFE-FORMS HERE – BUT WHAT?
UGH! WHAT ARE THOSE?

THERE WERE EIGHT OF THEM— STRANGE, DRIED-UP OBJECTS THAT LOOKED AS IF THEY HAD ONCE HAD LIFE...
THEY'RE LIKE HUGE TOADS. THEY HAVE THE APPEARANCE OF HAVING BEEN DEAD A LONG TIME...YET THERE'S NO SIGN OF DECOMPOSITION!
VERY CURIOUS INDEED, JIM. WE MUST ASK THE SPECIAL RESEARCH CENTRE TO CARRY OUT A COMPLETE BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF IT!
HEY! THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT MOVE ON THIS PLANET AFTER ALL! LOOK AT THESE LITTLE FELLOWS!
NO EYES, NO MOUTH. NO LEGS EVEN. IT MOVES BY STRETCHING AND CONTRACTING ITSELF!
IT LOOKS SO PATHETIC, SO CUDDLY. AND SOMEHOW QUITE IRRESISTIBLE. I'M GOING TO COLLECT THE OTHERS!
I'LL TAKE THIS ONE HE'LL BE MY PET...I'LL CALL HIM BEAVO!
JIM KIRK, MR. SPOCK AND DOC McCOY RETURNED TO THE ENTERPRISE...
I'LL PUT THIS MUMMIFIED TOAD IN STORE CUPBOARD "B"... AND KEEP THE DOOR LOCKED!
LITTLE BEAVO STAYS WITH ME. FUNNY THING...HE'S SO FRIENDLY THAT HE ATTACHES HIMSELF TO ANYONE. ANYONE BUT YOU, MR. SPOCK!
THE ENTERPRISE SET OFF ON ITS NEXT MISSION...
WITH NO PATIENTS TO CONCERN HIM, DR. McCOY BEGAN TO CATCH UP ON HIS PAPER WORK. AS HE WORKED BEAVO CLUNG AFFECTIONATELY TO HIS ARM...
MY – YOU REALLY HAVE TAKEN A LIKING TO ME, LITTLE FELLOW. I'LL SAY THIS ABOUT YOU... YOU'RE NO TROUBLE!
TWO HOURS WENT BY AND DR. McCOY YAWNED AND STRETCHED HIMSELF...
SURE DO FEEL VERY TIRED SUDDENLY. THINK WE'LL TURN IN, BEAVO!
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, INSIDE STORE CUPBOARD "B" A STRANGE, UNBELIEVABLE PROCESS WAS TAKING PLACE...
THE WITHERED LIMBS AND DRIED-UP BODY OF THE TOAD-CREATURE WERE FILLING OUT AND ONE OF ITS WEBBED HANDS SEEMED TO LIFT...

THE FOLLOWING MORNING INSTEAD OF BEING REFRESHED AFTER A NIGHT'S SLEEP DR. McCOY FELT MORE TIRED THAN EVER...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? I DON'T SEEM TO HAVE THE STRENGTH OF A KITTEN!
AND INSIDE STORE CUPBOARD "B"...
IT WAS MR. SPOCK WHO BROUGHT THE NEWS ABOUT DR. McCOY'S CONDITION TO JIM KIRK...
THE DOCTOR CLAIMS HE IS ONLY TIRED. BUT THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT. I THINK HE'S SICK!
I'LL GO AND SEE HIM. YOU'D BETTER COME TOO, UHURA!
THEY HURRIED TO DR. McCOY'S CABIN...
BUT I'M ALL RIGHT, I TELL YOU...
I DON'T AGREE! I WANT A GOOD MEDICAL OPINION ON YOU... AND I WANT IT SOON!
AND IN THE MEANTIME I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU, BEAVO!
THEY WERE RETURNING ALONG THE CORRIDOR WHEN...
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING?
B
SOMEONE, OR SOMETHING... IS TRYING TO BREAK OUT OF "B" CUPBOARD!
A MOMENT LATER THE METAL DOOR OF THE CUPBOARD FLEW OPEN...
A-AAH!
IT CAN'T BE... BUT IT IS! THE TOAD THING'S COME TO LIFE!
MR. SPOCK LEAPT FORWARD TO GRAPPLE WITH THE MONSTER...
GET A PHASER, CAPTAIN. AND HURRY!
JIM KIRK WAS BACK IN SECONDS...

IT...IT'S DEAD... ISN'T IT, CAPTAIN?
IT SHOULD BE, BUT I DON'T KNOW. IT LOOKED DEAD ENOUGH BEFORE, AND YET SOMEHOW IT RE-VITALISED ITSELF!
PUT IT BACK IN THE CUPBOARD AGAIN. I'LL HAVE A ROUND-THE-CLOCK GUARD PUT ON IT...
A FEW HOURS LATER ENTERPRISE WAS HOVERING OVER THE PLANET SELKYE. THE PORTS OPENED AND A SMALL CRAFT BEARING CAPTAIN KIRK, MR. SPOCK AND THE WEAKENED DR. McCOY SPED AWAY...
NCC-1701
...AND WE'RE GOING BACK TO SELKYE - WHERE THIS THING CAME FROM!
THEY LANDED CLOSE TO THE CENTRE OF THE RUINED CITY...
STRANGE. THERE ARE NONE OF PROFESSOR SPELLMAN'S PEOPLE ABOUT!
THEY'VE GOT THEIR BUILDING ERECTED. THEY MUST ALL BE INSIDE IT!
THEY WERE HALFWAY TO THE BUILDING WHEN...
IT'S ONE OF THE TOAD CREATURES!
BUT LOOK AT THE SIZE OF IT!
MR. SPOCK'S PHASER WAS ALREADY IN HIS HAND...
THERE'S MORE OF THEM! WE'VE GOT TO GET INTO THE BUILDING!
WITH HIS FREE HAND KIRK HAMMERED FRANTICALLY ON THE LOCKED DOOR OF PROFESSOR SPELLMAN'S HEADQUARTERS...
WHAT'S KEEPING THEM?
OPEN UP! OPEN UP! AND HURRY!
THE DOOR OPENED AT LAST...

PROFESSOR SPELLMAN! WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING HERE?
THE REASON FOR THE DELAY WAS ALL TOO CLEAR ONCE THE THREE MEN WERE INSIDE...
THEY'RE SICK, EVERY ONE OF THEM!
PROFESSOR SPELLMAN'S ANSWER CAME IN A WHISPER ALMOST TOO WEAK TO BE HEARD..
WE'VE BEEN STRUCK DOWN BY SOME UNKNOWN VIRUS!
AND WHILE WE'RE GETTING WEAKER THOSE TERRIBLE TOAD THINGS HAVE COME TO LIFE AND ARE GROWING STRONGER BY THE HOUR!
EACH OF THOSE THINGS OUT THERE IS ALREADY NEARLY HALF AS BIG AGAIN AS THE ONE ON ENTERPRISE. JUST HOW LARGE AND POWERFUL ARE THEY GOING TO BECOME?
I DON'T KNOW, MR. SPOCK. AND THAT'S WHY YOU AND I HAVE TO HIT THEM NOW. COME ON!
AS THEY LEFT THE SHELTER OF THE BUILDING, THE GIANT TOADS RUSHED THEM...
LET THEM HAVE IT, MR. SPOCK! AND BE CERTAIN YOU DON'T MISS!
THE AIR CRACKLED TO THE SOUND OF THE TWO PHASER GUNS...
SUDDENLY, ALL WAS STILL...
WE GOT THEM. EVERY SINGLE ONE!
BUT FOR HOW LONG? HOW LONG BEFORE THEY RE-CHARGE THEMSELVES AND RISE AGAIN?
I GOING TO CONTACT SCOTTY AND GET HIM TO SEND DOWN THE BIG SHUTTLE CRAFT RIGHT AWAY. I WANT ALL THESE PEOPLE OFF THIS PLANET AND BACK ON ENTERPRISE!
BUT WHEN KIRK SPOKE TO SCOTTY THERE WAS MORE BAD NEWS...
JIM KIRK'S EYES NARROWED...
SCOTTY - I THINK I MAY HAVE THE ANSWER TO IT ALL. NOW, LISTEN CAREFULLY...
CAN'T SEND OUT THE FERRY UNTIL THE MORNING, CAPTAIN! I'VE GOT SIX INJURED MEN, AND A WRECKED CONTROL PANEL TO REPAIR. THAT TOAD THING CAME ALIVE AGAIN AND WENT ON THE RAMPAGE UNTIL I BLASTED IT! OH - AN' THAT ISN'T ALL. UHURA'S SICK. SAME SYMPTOMS AS DR. McCOY!

THEN JIM TURNED TO MR. SPOCK...
I WANT YOU TO COLLECT ALL THE BEAVOS AND SECURE THEM INSIDE THIS METAL BOX. AND IF MY THEORY IS RIGHT, IN THE MORNING THE TOADS WILL BE JUST AS DEAD AS THEY ARE NOW!
AND SO IT PROVED. WHEN JIM AND MR SPOCK VENTURED OUT IN THE EARLY DAWN...
NOT A SIGN OF LIFE IN ANY ONE OF THEM. WHAT WAS IT ALL ABOUT, CAPTAIN?
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW, MR. SPOCK. HERE COMES THE SHUTTLE CRAFT!
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PROFESSOR SPELLMAN AND HIS PARTY WERE CARRIED ABOARD THE FERRY CRAFT AND SOON THEY WERE ALL ON THEIR WAY BACK TO ENTERPRISE...
I DID AS YOU ORDERED, CAPTAIN. I TOOK THE BEAVO AWAY FROM UHURA WITH A PAIR OF METAL TONGS AND PUT IT IN A METAL CONTAINER...
THE FIRST PERSON TO GREET JIM KIRK ON HIS RETURN WAS SCOTTY...
AND THE TOAD CREATURE?
DEADER-LOOKING THAN EVER!
BEFORE LONG DR. McCOY, UHURA, AND PROFESSOR SPELLMAN'S PARTY HAD BEGUN TO RECOVER...
WE HAVE A LOT TO THANK YOU FOR, CAPTAIN. WHAT DO YOU THINK REALLY HAPPENED TO US?
THE LITTLE BEAVOS WERE THE KEY TO IT ALL. WHEN THEY'RE ANALYSED I THINK WE'LL FIND THEY'RE NOT LIVING CREATURES AT ALL!
THE TOAD CREATURES HAD LAIN DORMANT UNTIL WE CAME ALONG AND PROVIDED NEW ENERGY SOURCES FOR THE BEAVOS TO DRAIN...
EACH TOAD CREATURE POSSESSED A BEAVO WHICH WAS FOR EVER SEEKING OUT SOURCES OF ENERGY AND THOSE SOURCES HAD TO BE LIVING CREATURES. WE FOUND NO OTHER LIFE FORM ON SELKYE BECAUSE THE BEAVOS HAD SUCKED THE LIFE FROM WHEREVER THEY FOUND IT. AND THE LIFE-FORCE THEY ABSORBED WAS TRANSFERRED THROUGH SPACE TO THE TOAD-CREATURES!
THE EXPERIENCE YOU HAVE BEEN THROUGH HAS ADDED TO MAN'S STORE OF KNOWLEDGE, GENTLEMEN. ON BEHALF OF THE WORLD MAY I SAY "THANK-YOU"!

STAR TREK

WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED SPOCK?

THE PLANET TARAGON HAD BEEN COLONISED FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS, AND CAREFUL PREPARATION HAD BEEN MADE TO EXPLOIT ITS VALUABLE MINERAL RESOURCES. PERHAPS NOT CAREFUL ENOUGH, THOUGH. POSSIBLY A MINE SHAFT HAD TOUCHED UNEXPECTED POCKETS OF GAS OR A DRILLING RIG HAD BEEN SUNK TOO FAR. BUT THE RESULT WAS CATASTROPHIC...

AND THAT WASN'T ALL. A CHAIN OF NATURAL DISASTERS WAS TRIGGERED OFF.

EVEN WORSE WAS TO COME, AS EMERGENCY TEAMS MADE HASTY SURVEYS... **SOMETHING STIRRED...**

BY JUPITER! LOOK! WHAT IS IT?

XQ TO BASE! IT'S ENORMOUS! IT CAME OUT OF THE GROUND! IT-IT'S CLOSING IN ON US!

COME IN, XQ! COME IN! DESCRIBE THIS THING! REPORT YOUR POSITION!
NO USE. IT'S GONE DEAD!
THEN THE VIOLENCE BROKE OUT IN THE TOWNS... AND SOON THE PANICKING PEOPLE WERE RIOTING...
IT WAS THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE THAT ANSWERED THE APPEAL.
ALL THE GOVERNORS COULD DO WAS LOCK THEMSELVES IN AND SEND FRANTIC RADIO MESSAGES...
OUR ENTIRE PLANET MAY COLLAPSE IN CHAOS UNLESS WE RECEIVE ASSISTANCE!
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, MR. SPOCK?
MINING EXPLOSIONS AND NATURAL DISASTERS ARE NOT UNCOMMON ON UNCHARTED PLANETS. NOR IS THE APPEARANCE OF ALIEN LIFE FORMS!
BUT WHY THEY SHOULD CAUSE MASS RIOTING BAFFLES ME. IT SEEMS FAR MORE THAN COMMON HYSTERIA!
DOWN ON TARAGON THEY HEARD MORE OF THE ALARMING CIRCUMSTANCES...
SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS OUT THERE, CAPTAIN KIRK... AND IT'S TAKING OVER MEN'S MINDS... DRIVING THEM INSANE!
THE MIND CAN BE DOMINATED BY TELEPATHY... BUT ONLY A HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED LIFE FORM USUALLY HAS THAT POWER!
WE'LL BEAM DOWN TO INVESTIGATE!
THERE IS NOT THE SLIGHTEST EVIDENCE OF ANY SUCH LIFE FORM ON THIS PLANET. SO WHATEVER IS OUT THERE IS BEYOND OUR EXPERIENCE!
READY TO TAKE A LOOK, MR. SPOCK?

OUTSIDE THE MAIN COLONY, THEY PAUSED...
I'M NOT HAPPY ABOUT SPLITTING UP, BUT WE'D BETTER. YOU TAKE THAT DIRECTION .I'LL TAKE THIS. MEET HERE IN AN HOUR!
VERY WELL, CAPTAIN!
ABOUT A QUARTER OF AN HOUR LATER
. HEAR SOMETHING LARGE IN THE UNDERGROWTH AHEAD, CAPTAIN!
SUDDENLY A HUGE SHADOW LOOMED OVER HIM
EVEN THE IMPERTURBABLE SPOCK WAS STAGGERED...
CAPTAIN! IT'S HERE!
AND THEN HE WAS HAULED TOWARDS THE THROBBING MASS.
KIRK WAS A GOOD HALF HOUR AWAY.
MR SPOCK! ANSWER ME! WHERE ARE YOU?
AT LAST, IN A CLEARING, HE SAW HIS COMRADE
YOU HAD ME WORRIED! WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT? AND WHY DIDN'T YOU ANSWER?
IMMEDIATELY SPOCK SWUNG ROUND
HAVE YOU GONE MAD!
MR.SPOCK! PUT DOWN THAT PHASER! HAVE YOU TAKEN LEAVE OF YOUR SENSES?

KIRK CHOSE TO FLEE...
HIS MIND'S OBVIOUSLY BEEN TAKEN OVER AS WELL!
MUST GET DR McCOY TO FIRE A TRANQUILLISER INTO HIM, THEN WE CAN ANALYSE HIS BRAIN PATTERNS ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE!
BUT SUDDENLY...
HEY - HE'S UP AHEAD OF ME NOW! HOW DID HE MANAGE THAT?
LYING IN WAIT, KIRK LEAPT ON SPOCK...
MAYBE I CAN KNOCK YOU BACK TO YOUR SENSES! COME ON, SAY SOMETHING!
AND THEN... THE GREATEST SHOCK OF ALL...
ANOTHER SPOCK! AND ANOTHER
NEXT MOMENT KIRK WAS RUNNING, DODGING AND WEAVING FOR HIS LIFE...
ONLY ONE THING IN MY FAVOUR... THEY ALL SEEM SUCH TERRIBLE SHOTS!
SOMEHOW SPOCK'S BEEN REPRODUCED AS THOUGH ON A CONVEYOR BELT! THERE COULD BE HUNDREDS OF HIM ON THE LOOSE!
IN HIS HEADLONG FLIGHT, KIRK DIDN'T SEE THE GULLY...
AAAAH! NOW I'M DONE FOR!

HE WAITED EXPECTANTLY FOR HIS END, BUT...
THEY CAN'T SEE ME! OBVIOUSLY THEY ONLY REACT TO SOUNDS!
KIRK LAY PERFECTLY STILL AS HE REALISED...
THEY'RE ALL GOOD DUPLICATES OF SPOCK... BUT NOT PERFECT. WHATEVER MADE THEM DIDN'T MASTER ALL THE INTRICACIES OF THE BODY!
AT LAST THEY MOVED OFF..
NOW WHAT? IF THE REAL SPOCK IS STILL ALIVE, HOW DO I FIND HIM? I CAN'T WANDER AROUND SHOUTING HIS NAME!
BY NOW KIRK WAS OVERCOME BY HORROR...
THESE CREATURES COULD PERFORM THIS MIRROR EFFECT THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE! THEY COULD DUPLICATE WHATEVER THEY WANTED AND OVERRUN EVERYTHING IN THE CONFUSION!
HE DECIDED TO BEAM BACK TO THE ENTERPRISE...
HI, SKIPPER. MR. SPOCK'S WAITING FOR YOU IN THE MICRO-LIBRARY!
WH-A-AT?
SECONDS LATER...
YOU'D BETTER BE THE REAL SPOCK!
OBVIOUSLY, CAPTAIN. THE OTHERS COULD NOT SEE, LET ALONE READ, COULD THEY?

EXPLAINING HOW HE HAD LOST CONTACT IN THE STRUGGLE, SPOCK TOLD THE REST...
I WAS DRAWN INTO A BRAIN-LIKE MASS... REMEMBER COMING TO LATER... AND THEN SAW MY DUPLICATE!
I REASONED SWIFTLY WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND BEAMED BACK TO STUDY OUR RESEARCHES!
THESE LIFE FORMS HAVE LIVED UNDERGROUND, SUBJECT TO INTENSE PRESSURES, AND THEY HAVE UNUSUAL MOLECULAR AND SENSE STRUCTURES!
THEY ARE EXCEPTIONALLY INTELLIGENT AND ABLE TO ABSORB ANY KIND OF MATTER AND REPRODUCE IT...
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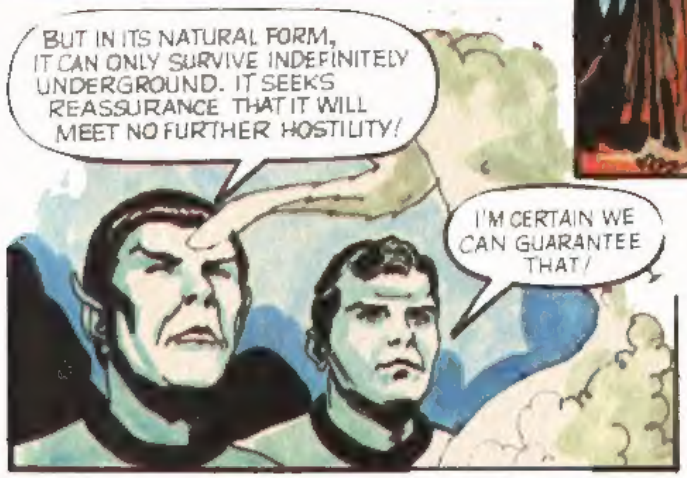
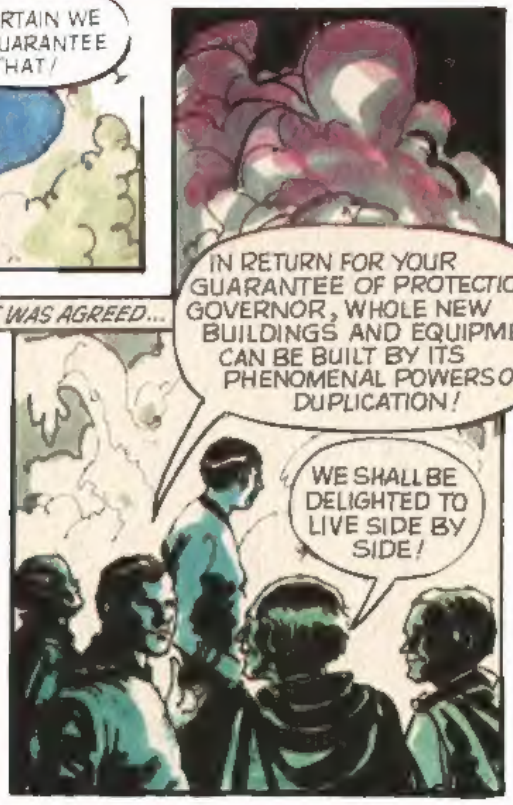
... WHY THEY DO SO IS TO LEARN ABOUT THE NEW BEINGS THEY HAVE SUDDENLY ENCOUNTERED!
THEY REPRODUCED SIMILAR HOSTILE DUPLICATES OF THE COLONISTS. WHICH HAS LED TO ALL THE VIOLENCE. THESE CREATURES BELIEVE WE ARE NATURALLY VIOLENT!
BUT YOUR FELLOW EARTHMEN REACTED IN THEIR USUAL FASHION. VIOLENTLY. SO DID I FOR THAT MATTER... WHICH IS WHY THEY HAVE PRODUCED A SPOCK THAT SHOOTS!
SO WHAT DO WE DO, MR. SPOCK?
BEAMING DOWN AGAIN, THEY WAITED UNTIL...
HERE IT COMES, CAPTAIN. NOW WHATEVER HAPPENS, DON'T INTERFERE!
SPOCK MERELY SAT ON A ROCK WRITING... AS THE HUGE MASS OF CELLS CLOSED ROUND HIM...
WHAT IS THAT MAN UP TO?

SOME TIME LATER HE KNEW...
SUCCESS, CAPTAIN. WE HAVE MADE CONTACT. BY LEARNING OUR LANGUAGE FROM WHAT I WROTE, IT CAN NOW COMMUNICATE WITH US BY TELEPATHY!

IN AN UNDERGROUND CAVERN LATER...
AS I DEDUCTED, CAPTAIN... ITS LIFE IS AN ENORMOUS COMPLEX OF INTELLIGENCE CELLS WHICH CAN SPLIT OR MERGE AT ANY TIME!


BUT IN ITS NATURAL FORM, IT CAN ONLY SURVIVE INDEFINITELY UNDERGROUND. IT SEEKS REASSURANCE THAT IT WILL MEET NO FURTHER HOSTILITY!
I'M CERTAIN WE CAN GUARANTEE THAT!

AND SOON IT WAS AGREED...
THERE IS NO REASON AT ALL WHY ITS WAY OF LIFE SHOULD CLASH WITH THAT OF THE COLONISTS. IN FACT, THE TWO CAN ACTIVELY HELP EACH OTHER!


IN RETURN FOR YOUR GUARANTEE OF PROTECTION, GOVERNOR, WHOLE NEW BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT CAN BE BUILT BY ITS PHENOMENAL POWERS OF DUPLICATION!
WE SHALL BE DELIGHTED TO LIVE SIDE BY SIDE!

WELL, MR. SPOCK, WE KNOW WHERE TO COME NOW IF THE ENTERPRISE GOES WRONG AND WE NEED A SPARE PART!
IT WOULD BE A FAULTY SPARE PART, CAPTAIN!

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NCC-1701
I-ER-THOUGHT YOU MIGHT FIND A SNAG SOMEWHERE, MR. SPOCK!
YES, CAPTAIN. I'VE SEEN ENOUGH OF MYSELF THIS MISSION TO LOOK FOR THEM!